

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9099

AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL HONGKONG PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 2065

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP (FRASER, DONALD M)

SUBJECT: VISIT OF CODEL FRASER

REF: STATE 06743 (NOTAL)

1. CHARGE DISCUSSED CODEL FRASER VISIT WITH ACTING FONMIN LHO SHIN-YONG MORNING OF MARCH 28. AT LHO'S REQUEST CHARGE GAVE HIM RUN-DOWN OF APPOINTMENTS BEING MADE FOR CODEL BY EMBASSY. LHO HAD NO DIFFICULTY IDJ ACCEPTING CONCEPT THAT IT IMPORTANT THAT CODEL LEAVE WITH CONVICTION THAT HE HAD UNRESTRICTED OPPORTUNITY TO SEE WIDE RANGE OF OPPOSITION FIGURES, AS WELL AS GOVERNMENT SUPPORTERS.

2. SOLE EXCEPTION WAS QUESTION OF CODEL'S REQUEST TO SEE KIM CHI-HA. LHO SAID REQUEST HAD BEEN REFERRED TO HIGHEST LEVELS AND HE COULD NOT PREDICT HOW DECISION WOULD GO. IT OBVIOUS, HOWEVER, FROM HIS Demeanor AND NATURE OF HIS ARGUMENTATION THAT THIS REQUEST HAS STRUCK VERY SENSITIVE NERVE. IN IMPLYING THAT DECISION WOULD BE NEGATIVE, LHO SAID, WITH CONSIDERABLE FORCE, THAT KOREAN PEOPLE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND HOW SOVEREIGN STATE COULD PERMIT FOREIGN LEGISLATOR TO INTERVIEW PRISONER UNDER INDICTMENT FOR CRIME AGAINST STATE. WHEN CHARGE SUBSEQUENTLY ASKED ABOUT STATUS OF REQUEST
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THAT CODEL SEE PRESIDENT PARK, LHO ASKED RETORICALLY

WHETHER IT WAS COURTEOUS TO PRESIDENT FOR CODEL
TO EXPECT TO SEE BOTH PRESIDENT AND KIM CHI-HA.
THERE WAS MORE IN THIS VEIN, ALL VERY EMOTIONAL AND
RESENTFUL OF REQUEST.

3. AFTER LHO HAD COOLED OFF, CHARGE POINTED TO
CODEL'S WELL-KNOWN CONCERN ABOUT ACCESS TO POLITICAL
PRISONERS, AS REFLECTED IN REFERENCE IN THIS YEAR'S
FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT TO GOVERNMENTS WHICH DO NOT
PERMIT ACCESS TO POLITICAL PRISONERS BY INTERNATIONAL
HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATIONS. CHARGE STRESSED IMPORTANCE
TO OUR MUTUAL INTERESTS OF PERMITTING CODEL TO HAVE
AS WIDE ACCESS AS POSSIBLE. HE DESCRIBED CALL ON
PRESIDENT AS ESSENTIAL AND ASKED THAT ROKG WEIGH
CAREFULLY MERITS OF HAVING CODEL ALSO SEE KIM CHI-HA.

4. COMMENT: LHO'S DISPLAY OF EMOTION TO SUGGESTION
CODEL SEE KIM CHI-HA DOUBTLESS REFLECTS HIS INTER-
PRETATION AND THOSE CLOSE TO PRESIDENT OF PRESIDENT'S
PERSONAL ATTITUDE TOWARD KIM CHI-HA. MY OWN JUDGMENT
IS THAT INSISTING ON THIS APPOINTMENT IS CLEARLY
LIKELY TO CREATE KIND OF UNDESIRABLE IRRITATION DISCUSSED
PARA 1 REFTEL. IN VIEW OF WIDE RANGE OF OPPOSITION
FIGURES TO WHOM CODEL WILL HAVE ACCESS, RECOMMEND
THAT SITUATION BE EXPLAINED TO CODEL AND THAT HE BE PREPARED
TO ACCEPT DENIAL OF KIM CHI-HA APPOINTMENT; IF ROKG SO
DECIDES. CONGRESSMAN RYAN, DURING HIS VISIT TO SEOUL
BEFORE PRISONERS RELEASED, WAS DENIED OPPORTUNITY TO
MEET BISHOP CHI.
ERICSON

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